

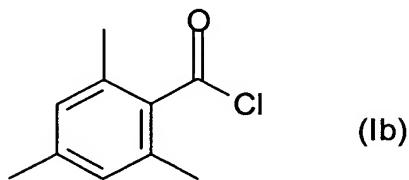
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl-and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzoyl chlorides (I), by, in a first stage, reacting a 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted benzene (II) with CCl₄ in the presence of [[AlCl₃]] AlCl₃ and subsequent hydrolysis of the formed [[AlCl₃]] AlCl₃ complex to give the corresponding 3-, 4- or 5-fold-C₁-C₂₀-alkyl- and/or mono- or poly -halogen-substituted trichloromethylated aromatic (III),

and, in a second stage, the trichloromethylated benzene (III) is hydrolyzed with water in the presence of a catalyst to obtain the benzoyl chloride (I), wherein in the second stage the aqueous organic phase from the hydrolysis of the [[AlCl₃]] AlCl₃ complex is used, and water-free CCl₄ is distilled distilled off after the hydrolysis.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein trimethylbenzoyl chloride of the formula (Ib)



is prepared from mesitylene as the substituted benzene (II).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the molar ratio of CCl₄ to substituted aromatic (II) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted benzene (II) are used.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (III) and AlCl_3 is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C.

Claim 6 (Original): The process according to claim 5, wherein the hydrolysis of the complex of trichloromethylated aromatic (III) and AlCl_3 is carried out continuously.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (New): The process according to claim 2, wherein the molar ration of CCl_4 to substituted aromatic (II) is from 1:1 to 3.5:1.

Claim 9 (New): The process according to claim 2, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted benzene (II) are used.

Claim 10 (New): The process according to claim 3, wherein from 1 to 1.5 equivalents of AlCl_3 per equivalent of the substituted benzene (II) are used.

Claim 11 (New): The process according to claim 4, wherein the complex of trichloromethylated benzene (III) and AlCl_3 is hydrolyzed with water at from 20 to 100°C.

Claim 12 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst used in the second stage is FeCl_3 .

SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The present Claims 1-12 are original claims submitted under PCT Article 34. The present application is a national stage application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of application PCT/EP04/07768 filed July 14, 2004. The claims are amended to remove the multiple dependencies and correct obvious typographical errors. No new matter is believed to be added.